

PRESS RELEASE

October 13, 2009

RE: H1N1 Vaccine Availability

The Riley County-Manhattan Health Department has received FluMist, a nasal spray live vaccine for the H1N1 flu virus.

FluMist vaccine will be offered to two healthy population groups (in no particular order). If you have questions regarding what constitutes “healthy”, please consult your physician:

- 1) Children between the ages of 2 and 9 years who have no health problems, and
- 2) Health care workers who are 49 years of age or younger, who are healthy and not pregnant, and who are likely to be in close contact with flu infected persons.

The vaccine will be offered at the Riley County-Manhattan Health Department beginning on Thursday, October 15th from 4:00 – 5:30 PM, or until we run out. If we still have vaccine, it will again be offered Friday, October 16th from 7:00 – 8:30 AM and Monday, October 19th from 4:00 – 5:30 PM, or until we run out. We will be receiving ongoing shipments of vaccine. You can monitor supply and availability information at www.rileycountyks.gov under **H1N1 Local Info** or by calling 776-4779, extension 297.

H1N1 vaccine is free. Fees for administration of the vaccine will be billed to insurance. Only insurance will be billed, not individuals. Persons without insurance coverage for the vaccine will not be charged at the health department.

Persons who qualify should complete the Vaccine Consent Form in advance if possible. The consent form is available at doctor’s offices, the health department, the library, and online at www.rileycountyks.gov under **H1N1 Local Info**.

H1N1 has not been any more serious than seasonal influenza so far but it attacks a younger age group than seasonal flu does and because virtually the entire population lacks immunity, it can infect far more people at once than seasonal flu usually does. For these reasons, we recommend that people get vaccinated as it becomes available for their population or age group.

CONTACT: **Susanne Kufahl, Assistant Administrator and Public Information Officer**
 Riley County-Manhattan Health Department
 2030 Tecumseh Road
 Manhattan, KS 66502
 785-776-4779 x 225